



U.S. Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York*

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announced today that Patrick M. O'Brien, 36, of Massena, New York was arraigned August 23, 2011 in U.S. District Court in Syracuse on a one count indictment charging him with theft of government monies in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641. The charge carries a maximum penalty of ten years incarceration and a fine of \$250,000.

The indictment alleges that between October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007, O'Brien, then a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, received reimbursement for mileage to which he was not entitled by falsely representing to the U. S. Coast Guard that he had conducted approximately 75 shore patrols. The court released the defendant on his own recognizance. A trial date has been set for October 24, 2011.

The charges and allegations contained in the indictment are

merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The case is being investigated by the United States Coast Guard Investigative Service, Buffalo Resident Office and prosecuted by Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney John G. Duncan (315-448-0672).